

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A precipitated silica having the following physicochemical characteristics:

BET surface area	from 50 to 700 m <sup>2</sup> /g;
DBP absorption	from 100 to 450 g/100 g;
Choline chloride absorption	from 150 to 400 g/100 g (75% absorption by weight aqueous solution);
CTAB surface area	from 50 to 350 m <sup>2</sup> /g; <u>and</u>
DBP/choline chloride absorption	less than 1.07.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The precipitated silica of Claim 1, having a modified Sears number of from at least 20 to 45.

5. (Currently Amended) The precipitated silica of Claim 1, having a BET surface area of 180-210 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a DBP adsorption of 280-450 g/100g, and a CTAB surface area of 130-200 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

6-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing precipitated silica, comprising:

[[ -]] simultaneously metering into an aqueous silicate solution more aqueous silicate solution and a Lewis and/or Brønsted acid to provide a mixture,

[[ -]] acidifying the mixture to a pH of 7-3.0 to provide an acidified mixture,

[[ -]] optionally filtering the acidified mixture to obtain a filtered precipitated silica,

[[ -]] optionally drying the filtered precipitated silica,

wherein the metered addition of the aqueous silicate solution and the Lewis and/or Brønsted acid is carried out while maintaining a constant alkali number in the mixture of at least 1, and

wherein said silica has the following physicochemical characteristics:

BET surface area	from 50 to 700 m <sup>2</sup> /g;
DBP absorption	from 100 to 450 g/100 g;
Choline chloride absorption	from 150 to 400 g/100 g (75% absorption by weight aqueous solution);
CTAB surface area	from 50 to 350 m <sup>2</sup> /g; and
DBP/choline chloride absorption	less than 1.07.

11. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 10, wherein the alkali number is at least 15.

12. (Original) The process of claim 10, further comprising the addition of an electrolyte prior to or during the simultaneous addition of aqueous silicate solution and Lewis and/or Brønsted acid.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

contacting the precipitated silica of claim 1 with a feed additive, a chemical intermediate, or a laundry detergent component.

15. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

contacting the precipitated silica of claim 1 with formic acid, propionic acid, lactic acid, phosphoric acid, choline chloride solution, a plant extract, a melamine resin, a coatings additive, a fragrance, or a detergent.

16. (Currently Amended) An elastomer, plastic, battery separator, toothpaste, catalyst support or flocculation assistant, comprising:

the precipitated silica of Claim 1.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing precipitated silica, comprising:

[[[-]] simultaneously metering into a vessel an aqueous silicate solution and a Lewis and/or Brønsted acid to provide a mixture,

[[[-]] acidifying the mixture to a pH of 7-3 to provide an acidified mixture,

[[[-]] optionally filtering the acidified mixture to obtain a filtered precipitated silica,

[[[-]] optionally drying the filtered precipitated silica,

wherein the metered addition of the aqueous silicate solution and the Lewis and/or Brønsted acid is carried out while maintaining a constant alkali number in the mixture of at least 1, and wherein said silica has the following physicochemical characteristics:

BET surface area from 50 to 700 m<sup>2</sup>/g;

DBP absorption from 100 to 450 g/100 g;

Choline chloride absorption from 150 to 400 g/100 g (75% absorption by weight aqueous solution);

CTAB surface area from 50 to 350 m<sup>2</sup>/g; and

DBP/choline chloride absorption less than 1.07.

18. (Original) The process of claim 17 wherein the alkali number is at least 15.

19. (Original) The process of claim 17, further comprising the addition of an electrolyte prior to or during the simultaneous addition of aqueous silicate solution and Lewis and/or Brønsted acid.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (New) The process of Claim 10, wherein said filtering of said acidified mixture is performed.

23. (New) The process of Claim 22, wherein said drying of said filtered precipitated silica is performed.

24. (New) The process of Claim 17, wherein said filtering of said acidified mixture is performed.

25. (New) The process of Claim 24, wherein said drying of said filtered precipitated silica is performed.